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Listing of Claims

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) A The method of claim 1, comprising:
searching a plurality of facial codes based on information designating at least one facial
feature, each facial code defining a digital representation of a face; and
outputting results of the search, wherein each facial code includes element codes defining a respective plurality of features included in the digital representation of a face, and wherein the plurality of facial codes are searched to locate at least one facial code that includes an element code corresponding to said at least one designated facial feature.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein outputting results of the search includes:
outputting a first set of facial codes including an element code corresponding to said at least one designated facial feature.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said outputting includes:
displaying one or more composite images corresponding to respective ones of the first set of facial codes produced from the search.
5. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising:
searching the first set of facial codes to locate a second set of facial codes including an element code corresponding to another designated facial feature.

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6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising:

displaying one or more composite images corresponding to respective ones of the second set of facial codes.
7. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the information designating said at least one facial feature is included in a user-initiated signal which includes element codes related by one or more Boolean operators, said at least one facial code located by the search including the elements codes related in a manner defined by the Boolean operators.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 ~~4~~, further comprising:

acquiring an image of a subject; and

receiving the information designating said at least one facial feature from a user, said at least one facial feature belonging to the subject in the image.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

outputting the image of the subject on a display to enable a user to identify said at least one facial feature.
10. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

acquiring an image of a subject having said at least one facial feature;

using a facial recognition algorithm to designate said at least one facial feature; and

determining one or more element codes corresponding to said at least one designated facial feature, wherein the facial codes are searched to locate at least one facial code that

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includes the one or more determined element codes.

11. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the facial codes are searched to locate a set of facial codes each including the element code corresponding to said at least one designated facial feature, said method further comprising displaying composite images corresponding to the facial codes in said set.

12. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

forming a composite image based on digital images files corresponding to the element codes included in the facial code produced from the search; and
displaying the composite image.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A The system of claim 13, comprising:

a processor which searches a plurality of facial codes based on information designating at least one facial feature, each facial code defining a digital representation of a face; and

a screen which outputs results of the search, wherein each facial code includes element codes defining a respective plurality of features included in the digital representation of a face, and wherein the processor searches the plurality of facial codes to locate at least one facial code that includes an element code corresponding to said at least one designated facial feature.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the processor generates a first set of facial codes each including an element code corresponding to said at least one designated

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facial feature.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the screen displays one or more composite images corresponding to respective ones of the first set of facial codes produced from the search.

17. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the processor searches the first set of facial codes to locate a second set of facial codes which include an element code corresponding to another designated facial feature.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the screen displays one or more composite images corresponding to respective ones of the second set of facial codes.

19. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the information designating said at least one facial feature is included in a user-initiated signal which includes element codes related by one or more Boolean operators, said at least one facial code located by the processor search including the elements codes related in a manner defined by the Boolean operators.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~14~~ 13, further comprising:

an image acquisition unit which acquires an image of a subject having said at least one facial feature.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the screen displays the image acquired by the image acquisition unit.

22. (Original) The system of claim 14, further comprising:

an image acquisition unit which acquires an image of a subject having said at least one facial feature; and

a medium storing a facial recognition algorithm which designates said at least one facial feature, wherein the processor determines one or more element codes corresponding to said at least one designated facial feature and searches the facial codes to locate at least one facial code that includes the one or more determined element codes.

23. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the processor searches the facial codes to locate a set of facial codes each including said at least one designated element code, and wherein the screen displays composite images corresponding to the facial codes in said set.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A The method of claim 24 for locating composite images, comprising:

generating a search statement designating at least one facial feature;

searching a plurality of facial codes based on the search statement, each facial code defining a digital representation of a face; and

outputting results of the search, wherein each facial code includes element

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codes defining a respective plurality of features included in the digital representation of a face, and wherein the plurality of facial codes are searched to locate at least one facial code that includes an element code corresponding to said at least one designated facial feature.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein generating the search statement includes:
selecting one of a plurality of displayed digital images corresponding to a first type of facial feature, said at least one designated facial feature corresponding to the selected digital image.
27. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising:
identifying the element code corresponding to said at least one designated facial feature.
28. (Original) The method 25, further comprising:
receiving confidence information indicating how close the selected digital image matches a subject of the search.
29. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein outputting results of the search includes:
outputting a first set of facial codes including an element code corresponding to said at least one designated facial feature.
30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein said outputting includes:
displaying one or more composite images corresponding to respective ones of the first set of facial codes produced from the search.

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31. (Original) The method of claim 29, further comprising:

searching the first set of facial codes to locate a second set of facial codes including an element code corresponding to another designated facial feature.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31, further comprising:

displaying one or more composite images corresponding to respective ones of the second set of facial codes.

33. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the information designating said at least one facial feature is included in a user-initiated signal which includes element codes related by one or more Boolean operators, said at least one facial code located by the search including the elements codes related in a manner defined by the Boolean operators.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~25~~ 24, further comprising:

acquiring an image of a subject,

wherein the search statement is generated by receiving information designating said at least one facial feature from a user, said at least one facial feature belonging to the subject in the image.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34, further comprising:

outputting the image of the subject on a display to enable a user to identify said at least one facial feature.

36. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein generating the search statement includes:
- acquiring an image of a subject having said at least one facial feature;
 - using a facial recognition algorithm to designate said at least one facial feature; and
 - determining one or more element codes corresponding to said at least one designated facial feature, wherein the facial codes are searched to locate at least one facial code that includes the one or more determined element codes.
37. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the facial codes are searched to locate a set of facial codes each including the element code corresponding to said at least one designated facial feature, said method further comprising displaying composite images corresponding to the facial codes in said set.
38. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising:
- forming a composite image based on digital images files corresponding to the element codes included in the facial code produced from the search; and
 - displaying the composite image.